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**Title:** A defining property of virtually nilpotent groups

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We answer the question: *which property distinguishes the virtually nilpotent groups among the locally graded groups?* The common property of each finitely generated group to have a finitely generated commutator subgroup is not sufficient. However, the finitely generated commutator subgroup of  $F_2(G)$ , a free group of rank 2 in the variety defined by  $G$ , is the necessary and sufficient condition.

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